

D3
Amended

a transport device[,
comprising} having
a drive shaft rotatable
around a rotational axis of said
drive shaft;
at least two conveyors
[arranged at said transport
device] for at least one
workpiece each[, said transport
device comprising], and a
transport arm for each conveyor
[projecting from] operatively
associated with said drive shaft;
said arms being
operatively coupled to said
conveyors to move said conveyors
independently of each other
relative to said drive shaft and
to have at least a radial
movement component relative to
the drive shaft rotational axis
via encapsulated, independent
drives, said drives controlling
closing and opening of said
openings with movement of said
conveyors relative to said drive
shaft.

Please amend claim 16 as follows:

D4

16. (Three Times Amended) A vacuum chamber for processing at least one workpiece, comprising at least two openings defining respective opening areas [for treating or handling said at least one workpiece thereat]; a transport device with a drive shaft for rotating said transport device around a rotational axis of said drive shaft; at least two conveyors [arranged at said transport device for the workpiece thereof, said transport device further comprising], and a transport arm for each conveyor [projecting from] operatively associated with said drive shaft[;said arms] and each being operatively coupled to one of said conveyors to move said conveyors independently of each other relative to said drive shaft, said transport arms having at least a radial movement component relative to said drive shaft rotational axis via encapsulated independent drives.

Please amend Claim 30 as follows:

54967
D5

30. (Amended) A vacuum chamber with at least two openings and a workpiece transport arrangement with which at least one workpiece within the chamber is selectively brought into a position adjacent to one of said openings, whereby the transport arrangement is provided within the chamber rotatably around a rotational axis and carries at least two members for holding a workpiece each, a rotation drive is provided to rotate said workpiece transport arrangement, and at least two

D5 comply

displacement drives are provided
form displacing said at least one
workpiece each with respect to
said transport arrangement
whereby said members are
selectively brought into a
position aligned with one of said
openings by rotation of said
transport arrangement and from
such position a workpiece is
displaceable towards and from
said opening by one of said
displacement drives, and said
member and said displacement
drives are operatively mounted on
said transport arrangement
rotation drive, said displacement
drive being arranged to control
closing and opening of respective
ones of said at least two
openings.

Please amend Claim 32 as follows:

Sds 287
D6

32. (Amended) A vacuum
chamber, comprising
at least two openings
defining respective opening
areas; and a transport device
operatively arranged relative to
the at least two openings and
including a member movable
relative to a rotational axis
thereof, at least two conveyors
for transporting at least one
workpiece each, and at least one
linear drive for each of said at
least two conveyors being
operatively coupled between said
movable member and a respective
conveyor of said at least two
conveyors and configured to
linearly move said respective
conveyors relative to said
movable member independently from
other conveyors of said at least
two conveyors, said at least one
linear drives being arranged to

D6
amend

control closing and opening of
said at least two openings.

Please amend Claim 33 as follows:

D7

33. (Amended) A vacuum
chamber with at least two
openings and a workpiece
transport arrangement with which
at least one workpiece within the
chamber is selectively brought
into a position adjacent to one
of said openings, whereby the
transport arrangement is provided
within the chamber rotatably
around a rotational axis and
carries at least one member for
holding a workpiece, a rotation
drive is provided to rotate said
workpiece transport arrangement,
and a sealed displacement drive
is arranged between said
transport arrangement and said at
least one member for displacing a
workpiece with respect to said
transport arrangement, whereby
said member is selectively
brought into a position aligned
with one of said openings by
rotation of said transport
arrangement and from such
position a workpiece is
displaceable towards and from
said opening by said displacement
drive, and said member and said
displacement drive are
operatively mounted relative to
said transport arrangement
rotation drive, said displacement
drive being further arranged to
control opening and closing of
said opening.

Please amend Claim 34 as follows:

D8

34. (Amended) A method of
processing at least one
workpiece, comprising the steps
of

rotating a transport device member around a rotational axis to bring the at least one workpiece adjacent an opening in a vacuum chamber having at least two openings, and

moving at least two conveyors with at least one movement component radial relative to said rotational axis, independently of each other relative to the transport device member so as selectively to move the at least one workpiece towards and away from the adjacent opening and thereby controlling opening and closing of said opening.

D8
cancel of

Please add the following claims:

35. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein said closing is a sealing closing.

D9

36. The apparatus of claim 1, wherein, for processing at least one disk-shaped workpiece, said conveyors are configured to hold at least one of said workpieces with a predetermined positioning of a disk plane thereof, and said drive shaft arranged to move said conveyors in a direction which is offset with respect to said disk plane.

37. The apparatus of claim 36, wherein said offset direction is perpendicular to said disk plane.

38. The chamber of claim 16, wherein said closing is a sealing closing.

39. The chamber of claim 16, wherein, for processing at least one disk-shaped workpiece,

D9
omit

said conveyors are configured to hold at least one of said workpieces with a predetermined positioning of a disk plane thereof, and said drive shaft arranged to move said conveyors in a direction which is offset with respect to said disk plane.

40. The chamber of claim 39, wherein said offset direction is perpendicular to said disk plane.

41. The chamber of claim 30, wherein said members are arranged to perform the closing.

42. The chamber of claim 30, wherein the closing is a sealing closing.

43. The chamber of claim 30, wherein, for processing at least one disk-shaped workpiece, said members are configured to hold at least one of said workpieces with a predetermined positioning of a disk plane thereof, and said at least one disk-shaped workpiece is arranged to be displaceable by said displacement drive in a direction which is offset with respect to said disk plane.

44. The chamber of claim 43, wherein said offset direction is perpendicular to said disk plane.

45. The chamber of claim 32, wherein the closing is a sealing closing.

46. The chamber of claim 32, wherein said at least one workpiece is a disk-shaped workpiece, and said at least one

linear drive has a direction which is offset with respect to a plane of said disk-shaped workpiece.

✓ 47. The chamber of claim 46, wherein the direction is perpendicular to said plane.

✓ 48. The chamber of claim 32, wherein said at least one linear drive is encapsulated within said chamber.

49. The chamber of claim 33, wherein the closing is a sealing closing.

50. The chamber of claim 33, wherein said displacement drive is a linear drive.

51. The chamber of claim 33, wherein, for processing at least one disk-shaped workpiece, said member is configured to hold at least one of said workpieces with a predetermined positioning of a disk plane thereof, and said at least one disk-shaped workpiece is arranged to be displaceable by said displacement drive in a direction which is offset with respect to said disk plane.

52. The chamber of claim 51, wherein said offset direction is perpendicular to said disk plane.

✓ 53. The method of claim 34, wherein the controlled closing is a sealing closing.

54. The method of claim 34, wherein the closing and opening is performed by the conveyors.

55. The method of claim 34,
wherein the moving of the
conveyors is in a linear
direction.

56. The method of claim 34,
wherein the moving of the
conveyors is effected, for
processing at least one disk-
shaped workpiece, in a direction
which is offset to a plane of
said disc-shaped workpiece.

57. The method of claim 56,
wherein said direction is
perpendicular to the plane.

REMARKS

The errors noted in the Specification are corrected above, with the exception of numeral 21. We believe it is accurate to refer to the article by that numeral as well as in its more specific form, namely a storage disk. In light of the objection to the numeral 23 as designating both a bellows and grooves, applicant proposes to correct that Fig. 5 by changing numeral 23 to 22'.

The rejection of claims 1-34 under 35 U.S.C. §251 on grounds of recapture is traversed, and reconsideration is requested.

Applicant disagrees that he is attempting to recapture subject matter voluntarily surrendered in the parent application. In particular, the Office Action states that in Amendment A of the patented file, the applicant rewrote independent claim 1 to include dependent claim 9 which included dependent claim 8 as well. We would note, however, that claim 8 was not indicated to